

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
Manitowoc Board of Education  
September 14, 2021

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Dave Nickels at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Collin Braunel, Ms. Lisa Johnston, Mr. Dave Nickels, Ms. Meredith Sauer, Ms. Stacey Soeldner, Mr. Kerry Trask, and Ms. Kathy Willis. Also present were Superintendent Mark Holzman, Board Secretary Laurie Braun and Directors.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members logged into BoardBook and the virtual meeting connection was confirmed.

A motion was made by Kerry Trask, seconded by Kathy Willis, and unanimously carried (7-0), to approve the minutes from August 24, 2021, Board Meeting.

Board President Nickels acknowledged communications received from scholarship recipients.

Public Input began at 7:02 p.m. The Board received requests and heard from nineteen (19) individuals who provided public input. Due to the number of requests, the Board allowed Public Input to exceed the 30-minute allotted amount of time and each speaker was given three (3) minutes to speak. The Board heard comments that addressed the district's Covid-19 protocols; including those in favor of and against masking, the parental choice for a child, and adults being civil during these difficult times. Public Input concluded at 7:47 p.m.

Finance and Budget Committee Chairperson Kathy Willis provided a summary of the September 1, 2021 meeting. A proposal for out-of-state travel for Cenergistic Training was presented to the committee and will be brought forward to the full board under New Business. Director of Business Services Angela Erdmann shared a preliminary overview of the 2021-22 budget and discussed the estimated mill rate of \$7.06, which would be a historic low for the district and a significant decrease from the previous year. A motion was made by Collin Braunel, seconded by Lisa Johnston, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the minutes from the September 1, 2021 Finance and Budget Committee Meeting.

Chairperson Kerry Trask provided a report of September 8, 2021, Personnel Committee Meeting. Mr. Trask shared information regarding the Near Site Clinic and our partnership with the City of Manitowoc providing this healthcare option for our employees. The committee also discussed the proposal of hiring two additional teachers for the McKinley Virtual Academy. The additional positions include one Special Education teacher and one EL teacher due to the increased enrollment at the Virtual Academy. The additional positions will be brought forward to the full Board for approval under New Business. The Superintendent Evaluation policy and procedure were also discussed at length and will be addressed later in the meeting under Unfinished Business. A motion was made by Stacey Soeldner, seconded by Kathy Willis, to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2021 meeting. Board member Meredith Sauer asked to amend the minutes to reflect Kerry Trask seconded the motion to adjourn the committee meeting. The amended minutes were unanimously (7-0) approved as corrected.

Director of Business Service Angela Erdmann presented the payment of vouchers for the month ending August 31, 2021. A motion was made by Meredith Sauer, seconded by Lisa Johnston, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve Bill List 8-1-21 through 8-31-21. The presented Bill List reflects district operating expenses and district payroll for a total operating expense of **3,854,330.11**.

Director of Human Resources Joyce Greenwood-Aerts presented the Personnel Report. The Personnel Report consisted of two (2) resignations, four (4) professional staff positions, nine (9) support staff positions, five (5) level movements, and extra-curricular position stipends. A motion from Kathy Willis, seconded by Meredith Sauer, the Personnel Report was unanimously approved (7-0). Ms. Greenwood-Aerts also presented an addendum to the Personnel Report. On motion from Kathy Willis, seconded by Kerry Trask, the Board approved the Addendum (61) with Collin Braunel opposing.

Superintendent Holzman next shared the Academic Standards. This is an annual requirement for approval for instruction from DPI. Board member Braunel asked if this is something that should be referred to the Curriculum Committee before being presented to the full Board. A motion to refer this to the Curriculum Committee was made by Stacey Soeldner, seconded by Collin Braunel. Discussion occurred surrounding the timeliness of the academic standards being adopted, reiterating these are the state's standards. These standards are updated and instruction is aligned to the statewide assessment standards. The Board approved (6-1) the Academic Standards be brought to the Curriculum Committee for further review, with Meredith Sauer opposing. The Curriculum Committee is scheduled to meet 9-16-21.

The Superintendent and Directors Report was presented. Board members had the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

Superintendent Holzman provided a District Activity Update asking any Board members who are interested in attending the WASB Regional meeting to contact the Board Secretary for registration. Mr. Holzman also shared the week of October 4th is Homecoming Week with a lot of fun activities for students to participate in. The parade will take place Friday night starting at 6 p.m. and the Homecoming football game will be held at Rubick Field at 1:00 p.m. Saturday. The school year is off to a great start and we are welcoming approximately 100 new students and their families to our district. Preliminary enrollment numbers will be shared with the Board at the next Board meeting.

The 2021-2022 Covid-19 Protocols were the next topic of Board discussion. Stacey Soeldner made a motion to have the District's Covid-19 protocol policies and procedures be placed in the hands of the Board members effective immediately, Collin Braunel seconded the motion. Significant discussion took place surrounding how the Covid protocols and procedures were made and put into place. Due to public disruption and the inability to continue conducting business, Board President Nickels asked for a motion to recess the meeting and continue in a virtual setting. Meredith Sauer made a motion to recess the meeting, Lisa Johnston seconded the motion. The Board approved (5-2) to recess the meeting at 8:22 p.m., with Stacey Soeldner and Collin Braunel opposing.

Virtual meeting connection was confirmed and the Board meeting reconvened at 8:30 p.m. Board President Nickels reminded the Board there is a motion on the floor and the Board continued discussion regarding the District's Covid-19 protocols and how these protocols were initially put into place several months ago. Clarification was given to the history of how authority was given to Superintendent Holzman regarding the Covid-19 protocols and make the necessary shift based on the day-to-day changes our community was faced with at that time. Superintendent Holzman addressed there is so much more to our district's Covid protocols than just universal masking. Stacey Soeldner suggested that an Ad-Hoc Committee be created, made up of Board Members to create the Covid-19 Protocols. Meredith Sauer made a motion to call to question the discussion, Stacey Soeldner seconded the motion and was unanimously approved (7-0). The motion to have the District's Covid-19 Policies and Protocols be placed in the hand of the Board effective immediately was voted on and failed (3-4) with Stacey Soeldner, Collin Braunel and Dave Nickels voting in favor of the motion. Board President Dave Nickels agreed to put together an ad-hoc committee that would discuss Covid-19 Protocols. A motion was made by Collin Braunel for the School Board to have the power of making the decisions of a mask-wearing and closing of schools due to Covid-10, Stacey Soeldner seconded the motion. Discussion and surrounding the motion commenced. Collin Braunel clarified the motion to be amended stating the School Board would decide on school district closure and mask mandate, Stacey Soeldner seconded the amended motion. The motion failed (5-2) with Stacey Soeldner and Collin Braunel voting in favor of the motions. Board member Braunel made a motion for the District to remove the mask mandate, Stacey Soeldner seconded the motion. Lengthy discussion and clarification took place regarding why the District initially recommended universal masking in our schools for staff, students and visitors, and for those who provide a medical exemption. Board member Soeldner made a motion to call to question, Collin Braunel seconded the motion and then withdrew his motion to allow Board member Willis to finish her comment. At this time Board President Nickels ended the discussion and requested a vote on the motion to end the mask mandate. The Board voted and the motion did not pass (4-2), Stacey Soeldner and Collin Braunel voting in favor of the motions and Kathy Willis abstaining.

The Superintendent Evaluation was the next agenda item for discussion. Mr. Trask provided a summary of the evaluation policy that was adopted in March of 2021. Superintendent Holzman asked the Board for permission to dismiss the Directors at this time. Permission was granted and the Directors were dismissed at 9:36 p.m. and were allowed to do so if they wished. The Board continued discussion surrounding the goals for the Superintendent as stated in the policy. Kerry Trask made a motion that the Board's goal this year for the Superintendent is to improve discipline and diminish disruptive student behavior, Kathy Willis seconded the motion and discussion followed. Superintendent Holzman suggested possible goals with student academic achievement as a strong goal to pair with student discipline and behavior. Superintendent Holzman will work with the Personnel Committee Chairperson to discuss the plan for these goals and provide an update at the next meeting. The Board unanimously approved (7-0) the motion.

On motions brought forward from the 9-1-21 Curriculum Committee Meeting, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the Out-of-State Travel Request for Angela Erdmann to attend the Cenergistic Training in Dallas, Texas September 27-29, 2021.

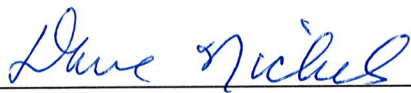
On motions brought forward from the 9-8-21 Personnel Committee Meeting, the Board approved the additional Special Education Teacher position at McKinley Academy Virtual Charter School (6-1) with Stacey Soeldner opposing. On motions brought forward from the 9-8-21 Personnel Committee Meeting, the Board approved the additional EL Teacher position at McKinley Academy Virtual Charter School (6-1) with Stacey Soeldner opposing.

Board President Dave Nickels acknowledged the WASB 2021 Fall Regional Meeting and Workshop will be held October 5th at Millhome Supper Club in Kiel. Please note new restrictions have been put in place for those attending the meeting. Board members should contact the Board Secretary if they wish to attend and she will complete registration.

Future scheduled meeting dates include the next Board Meeting September 21, 2021, Curriculum Committee Meeting September 16, 2021, Finance & Budget Committee Meeting September 22, 2021, and Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting October 1, 2021.

A motion to adjourn was made by Collin Braunel, seconded by Kathy Willis, and unanimously carried (7-0), the meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Braun, Secretary



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Dave Nickels, Board President